



Project Information Sheet

Volume I

Featured Items

- *Project Background*
- *Project Approach Overview*

Join This Effort

Look here in future fact sheets for upcoming outreach and stakeholder involvement opportunities.

Upcoming Products

*March 2004:
Synthesis Document*

Freight in Our Backyard

Each year, hundreds of millions of tons of freight move across New Jersey by air, rail, water, and highway. In 1998 alone, the value of those goods exceeded 300 billion dollars. The paths these goods take, the modes they utilize, the locations of trip origins and destinations, and even the time of day the movements occur all have significant implications for New Jersey citizens and businesses. Goods movement impacts not only our quality of life, but also our economic vitality on a local, regional, national, and international scale.

Historically, state DOTs and other transportation agencies primarily addressed issues related to passenger cars and transit operations. Goods were left to find their own way. With the passage of the Federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) in 1998 and the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), the idea of addressing goods movement from a multi-modal systems perspective took root.

The Urgent Need to Plan

Nowhere is this need for a systems view more pronounced than in New Jersey. The wealth, population density, and key geographic location of the State create major goods movement challenges. Fortunately, much work has been done and continues to be done by the State's metropolitan planning organizations, authorities, commissions, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), and other State agencies to address goods movement issues. However, there is a pressing need to rationalize these efforts from a state perspective.

To increase understanding of the goods movement issues, constraints, and opportunities facing the State now and in the future, the NJDOT is developing the State's first Comprehensive Statewide Freight Plan. The plan will:

- Describe the goods movement transportation network in New Jersey from a physical, operational, economic, and citizen's perspective.

- Produce a synthesis of previous work and outreach highlighting issues, trends, challenges, and opportunities in goods movement in New Jersey.
- Identify, evaluate, and recommend alternative options/policies that address constraints by mode.
- Increase public understanding of the goods movement and logistics issues.
- Develop better tools and performance measures to evaluate freight issues and options.
- Strengthen partnerships and coordination with sister transportation agencies, other government organizations, private industry, and the public.

Making a Winning Plan

The freight planning effort will advance through three distinct phases: development of the study design, study design implementation, and final study reports. Since a key component of the study is coordination and communication among the freight community, infrastructure providers, the general public, multiple opportunities for interaction will exist throughout out all phases of the study.

Phase I Develop the Study Design

The purpose of Phase I is to create a guiding framework for the overall development and content of the plan, define the issues that need to be addressed, develop the technical approach, and identify what the plan will accomplish. The study design will clearly outline the primary questions that the plan will answer.

Major Phase I products include:

- A synthesis document that describes the current goods movement transportation network in New Jersey, and presents a mosaic of current activities, initiatives, and challenges.
- The characterization and select acquisition of available data resources and other available study inputs such as reports, plans, and capital programs.
- Complete study design and detailed work plan for Phase II.

Phase II Study Design Implementation

- Conduct the work program designed in Phase I.
- Continue outreach and coordination activities.

Phase III Draft and Final Study Documents

- Present the draft plan to the stakeholders for review and comment.
- Complete the final document and executive summary.

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